

Historic Yorktown Design Committee

Minutes

March 23, 2005

East Room

York Hall

Yorktown, Virginia

Members Attending: Chuck Murray, Chairman
Jennifer Carver
Harvey Weinstein

Staff Attending: Mark Carter

Chairman Murray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the January 19, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously.

Applications:

Application No. HYDC-7-05: Fifes and Drums of Yorktown: Request for approval of the design of the new headquarters building proposed to be constructed at 202 Church Street.

Mr. Walt Akers, President of the Fifes and Drums of Yorktown, summarized the request. He noted that the Corps currently operates out of a 700 square foot building provided by the National Park Service but with 70 members, the space has become inadequate. He said the new building, which is proposed to be constructed on property reserved specifically for this purpose under the terms of the NPS/York County land exchange agreement, would contain approximately 3,600 square feet of rehearsal, storage and office space. He noted that the design had been coordinated with the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and that both had approved.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the summary of the pertinent design guidelines provided in the staff memorandum. Specific discussion took place on the following:

- Brick – The Guidelines call for the use of “Virginia Red brick” but that is not clearly specified on the building plans. The Committee requested that the County provide information to Mr. Akers concerning that type of brick and possible sources.

- Mortar Joints – The Guidelines specify that mortar joints should be beige or tan. This should be added to the plan specifications.
- Use of composite siding – The Committee determined that composite (Hardie Board or equivalent) siding is appropriate for use on this new structure. The Committee also indicated that Hardie Board, or an equivalent, could be used on the sides of the dormers and that the orientation of the dormer siding could be either horizontal or parallel to the roof slope.
- Roof Type – The Committee noted that the Swan Tavern and Period Designs buildings have wood shake shingle roofs and asked Mr. Akers why that was not proposed for the new building. Mr. Akers noted that asphalt architectural shingles were proposed to be used and that was consistent with Section 106 review guidelines that discourage design features and materials that would create confusion as to whether a building is new or historic. He said the architectural grade asphalt shingle treatment had been approved by the NPS and SHPO.
- Door Hardware – Mr. Akers confirmed that the building would include simple and inconspicuous door hardware.
- Windows – The Committee discussed and approved the use of vinyl-clad double hung windows. With respect to the muntins, the Committee decided that either internal or enclosed (i.e., sandwiched between the two panes of glass) would be acceptable. Mr. Akers indicated that he preferred the enclosed type.

Considerable discussion took place concerning the grill pattern (6 over 9 vs. 6 over 6). The architectural drawings show 6 over 6 windows for the dormers and 6 over 9 windows for the first floor. The Committee asked that Mr. Akers consider using 6 over 6 windows on the first floor. Mr. Akers indicated that he would be willing to consider that but he also noted that the proposed design had been approved already by the National Park Service and the SHPO and, because of timing issues, he would not want to change something that would cause the entire proposal to have to go back through that review process. Mr. Daniel Smith, Superintendent of the Colonial National Historical Park said that he would check on the review procedure that would be required and would do all possible to approve the change at the local NPS level. After further discussion, the Committee agreed that all the windows should be 6 over 6 as long as that change did

not require additional SHPO review and as long as the 6 over 6 pattern is a stock size and does not require special order.

- Walkways – The Committee discussed the proposed walkways and agreed that they should be brown exposed aggregate.
- Lighting – Mr. Akers confirmed that the light fixtures would be simple and compact. The Committee concurred with the recommendation to have the fixtures approved by the Zoning Administrator after consultation with the Park Service.
- Shutters – Mr. Akers indicated that shutters would be installed if sufficient funds are available. The Committee noted that shutters do not have to be operable, but must be made of wood or an acceptable composite material that is indistinguishable from wood.

After further discussion, Mr. Weinstein moved that the application be approved subject to the 7 conditions recommended by the staff and with a requirement that the windows be 6 over 6, if available in the same size. Mr. Murray proposed that the motion be amended so as not to require a 6 over 6 arrangement if it would require a special order or if it would require another round of review by the SHPO. Mr. Weinstein agreed to the amendment and the motion to approve the application, subject to the following conditions, was approved unanimously:

1. The building shall be constructed in accordance with the exterior features depicted on the architectural renderings dated January 1, 2005.
2. Foundation mortar shall be beige/tan in color and joints shall be struck with a grapevine profile. Brick shall be Virginia Red Brick as specified in the Guidelines.
3. The use of Hardie Board (or equivalent) composite siding, gray architectural/dimensional composition shingles, and vinyl-clad double hung windows with snap-in or internal/enclosed muntins, as indicated on the building plans, is approved. However, windows shown as 6 over 9 shall be converted to a 6 over 6 light pattern if said change can be accommodated in the same size opening, the windows are available as a stock item rather than special order, and the change does not require re-review by the State Historic Preservation Officer.
4. All door hardware shall be simple in design and appropriate to the character of the building and the district, and shall be subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator after consultation with the National Park Service.

5. Exterior light fixtures shall be black framed, 18th century style consistent with the recommended examples of fixtures provided by the National Park Service and shall be subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator after consultation with the National Park Service.
6. If installed, shutters shall be painted Burdett's Ordinary Black Green or Market Square Tavern Dark Green.
7. The concrete walkway leading to the handicapped ramp, and the ramp itself, shall be finished with a brown exposed aggregate surface conforming to all applicable ADA requirements.

Old Business

Mr. Carter reported on an administrative approval for renovation work at the Duke of York Motel and noted that one aspect of the proposed work – the use of composite siding on the end of the building - would be coming to the HYDC in April.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Carter, Secretary.